

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119

A Claim of Priority Letter has been filed concurrently herewith along with a certified copy of Japanese Priority Application 2002-215121. **The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of the priority document, and to confirm that the Claim for Priority Under 35 U.S.C. 119 is complete.**

Specification

The disclosure has been objected to in view of the informalities as listed on page 2 of the current Office Action dated April 13, 2005. The specification has been corrected as requested by the Examiner. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this objection to the disclosure.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been objected to in view of the informalities as listed on page 2 of the Office Action. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been corrected as requested by the Examiner. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw this

objection to the claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes the Examiner's acknowledgment that claims 1-21 are allowed.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the above noted amendments have been made merely to correct the informalities as requested by the Examiner, not to further distinguish the claims over any of the cited prior art. This should be especially clear in view of the Examiner's acknowledgment of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the amendments to claims 1, 8 and 15 should not be construed as narrowing scope within the meaning of *Festo*.

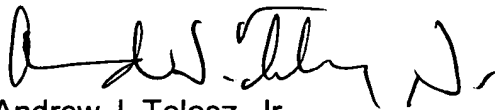
Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Andrew J. Telesz, Jr. (Reg. No. 33,581) at (571) 283-0720 in the Washington, D.C. area, to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

VOLENTINE FRANCOS & WHITT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew J. Telesz, Jr.
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